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Week ending Friday May 4, 2018

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Local News

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ART SEARCHING

A NATIONWIDE project to digitise thousands of sculptures rolled into Southend last week.

Work began with a 1918 sculpture of the head of Italian heiress and arts patron Marchesa Luisa Casati Stampa di Soncino, created by Sir Jacob Epstein. It was photographed at the Beecroft Gallery on Monday, April 23.

The sculpture was presented

to the gallery by EK Cole, founder of electronics firm Ekco.

The photography is the first step in a project by Art UK to digitise around 170,000 sculptures across the country.

Art UK already has more than 200,000 works of art on its website artuk.org – mainly oil paintings so far – and the sculptures go online shortly.



TOUCH OF CLASS
Charlotte Hanmore prepares a sculpture at the Beecroft Gallery before it's snapped for Art UK's digitisation of the nation's art

Council's refusal to release details of child abuse probe branded 'ludicrous'

SOMETHING TO HIDE?

EXCLUSIVE

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

ESSEX Council is refusing to answer basic questions about an inquiry linking some of its former employees to alleged child sex abuse.

For the second time this year, County Hall has refused to release details of the Kenward Report, commissioned in the late 1990s to probe allegations that child protection staff abused kids in care.

The Taxpayers' Alliance described the council's refusal to

answer basic questions as 'ludicrous', whilst the founder of a leading child abuse charity said the ongoing secrecy gave the impression that the council 'has something to hide'.

The 'Kenward Report' was penned by independent child protection expert Helen Kenward, who had conducted high profile abuse inquiries for other local authorities.

The *Yellow Advertiser* revealed its existence in March, when Essex Council refused to publish it, even in a redacted form.

We asked to view the report after learning it had been shown to police investigating a historic paedophile ring in Shoeburyness. The ring was originally investigated in 1990, but only two of the perpetrators named by the victims were prosecuted.

The case has been reopened after the *YA* unearthed evidence other men were named by victims at the

time but never brought to justice.

The *YA* has seen evidence that whistleblowers were interviewed by Mrs Kenward in 2000 and 2001, about subjects including alleged corruption connected to the Shoebury paedophile ring.

But the council claimed in March that there was 'no public interest' in allowing taxpayers to read the report and dismissed the *YA*'s request to view it as 'vexatious', claiming it would take 'many hundreds of hours' to redact sensitive information.

The *YA* then filed a Freedom of Information (FOI) request for basic details of the report, such as who commissioned it, the date on which it was published, how much it had cost taxpayers, and which council officials were permitted to read it upon completion.

County Hall claimed it could not answer those questions because paperwork had been destroyed.

The *YA* also asked for statistical



SCOOP: YA front page March 30
information about the report, such as how long it was, how many people were interviewed and how many staff were disciplined or sacked as a result of its findings.

But County Hall refused to answer a single question – even withholding simple facts, like the number of pages in the report.

It claimed collating any of the requested information would cost more than £450 in man hours.

● Turn to page 2

Report not in public interest - County Hall

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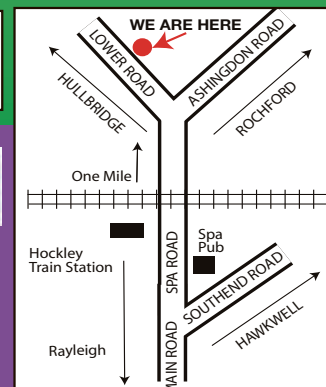
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NHS Trust rocked by patient abuse claims

EXCLUSIVE

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

POLICE have been called in over three separate allegations that staff at an Essex NHS trust engaged in sexual behaviour with patients.

Health watchdog the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is also due to carry out an investigation into the Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT), which has been beset by problems this year.

In March, the trust's bosses were questioned by Southend Council over allegations that staff had engaged in sexual behaviour with vulnerable mental patients and supplied them with Class A drugs.

The claims were made by whistleblowers interviewed in a BBC radio documentary – File on Four: A Place of Safety – after which EPUT admitted it had investigated multiple allegations.

Days later, the Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group, which manages NHS budgets in the two boroughs, stripped EPUT of its contract to



ALARM The Essex Partnership University Trust is having to deal with numerous claims of staff engaging in sexual behaviour with patients at some of its centres

provide therapy to mental patients, saying its services were 'unacceptable'. The decision was not linked to allegations of sexual abuse.

But a Freedom of Information request by the *Yellow Advertiser* reveals that EPUT referred three allegations of sexual impropriety towards patients by staff to police between April 2017 and March 2018.

One of the three staff members reported to police has been sacked.

A further two allegations were made to the trust but not referred

to police.

Asked why no referral was made, a trust spokesman said: "Following a robust safeguarding investigation, two separate cases were found to be without substance."

The *YA* asked Essex Police what stage each of the three investigations was at, but the force had not responded by the time we went to press.

The CQC said last week it was due to carry out a full inspection of the trust this month.

A spokesman said: "We meet with the trust regularly and have discussed the recent allegations at length. We await the outcome of the current police investigations and are satisfied with the immediate actions the trust took in terms of internal investigations to explore the allegations."

Asked how many complaints it had received about the trust, the CQC said it had "numerous enquiries regarding the trust on a daily basis – ranging from complaints to information". It added that complaints were referred to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO).

The PHSO told the *YA* it had received 45 complaints about the trust since April 2017, although it was unable to specify whether any involved alleged sexual misconduct.

To date, four were upheld or partly upheld, seven were not upheld, one was discontinued and the rest remain under investigation.

In the wake of the BBC documentary, EPUT set up a special reporting line for people with similar allegations – but said it had not yet received any.

Police 'return' laptop filth to paedophile

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched after Essex Police allegedly handed a laptop back to a paedophile which still contained indecent images of children.

The force is under investigation by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), which replaced the former IPCC.

An IOPC spokesman said: "An investigation has begun after it became clear that Essex Police handed back devices to Paul Ashbury that may have contained more than 100 indecent images."

Essex Police arrested Ashbury – 52 and from Kings Lynn – in 2012 'on suspicion of sexual assault against a child and seized his computers.'

But in 2013, the force decided to take no action against Ashbury and returned his computers to him.

In 2017, Ashbury was arrested by Norfolk Police and he is now serving a 15-year prison sentence after admitting offences including rape, sexual assault and sexual activity with a child – plus making indecent photographs of a child.

An IOPC spokesman said: "It appears that when Norfolk Police officers examined Ashbury's laptop, they found additional child abuse images which it is believed had not been identified during Essex Police's investigation."

"Our investigation will examine the conduct of officers from Essex Police's child abuse investigation team and whether the investigation into Mr Ashbury was carried out in accordance with its guidelines."

An Essex Police spokesman said: "Essex Police referred to the IOPC matters relating to a case from 2012. We are unable to comment in further detail at this stage but will comply fully with the investigation."

"Since this incident, Essex Police has made significant improvements to policing of these offences and has invested heavily in more officers and better technology to identify offences and evidence."

Elderly woman conned by 'undercover officers'

ESSEX Police have issued a public warning after an elderly woman was defrauded by men posing as police officers.

The woman, in her 80s, withdrew a 'four-figure sum of cash' and handed it to two men who claimed

to be working undercover for the police.

A police spokesman said: "Fraudsters claiming to be either police officers or bank representatives call their victims and ask them to either withdraw cash or purchase an

expensive item – to assist them in an undercover investigation."

If the victim is suspicious, the fraudsters get them to call police and ask for more details.

But when the victims hang up and dial 101 or

999, the fraudsters do not hang up at their end and the line is therefore not cleared properly.

In effect, the victim is still talking to the fraudsters, not the police.

DC Ed Massey, of Essex Police's Volume Fraud

Team, said: "Please pass this information on to an elderly relative, friend or neighbour before they are conned into handing over large amounts of money."

"The people involved in these scams prey on vulnerable members of our

communities without any consideration for their health or finances. In cases, victims have been conned people out of their life savings."

"Remember, we will never ask you to withdraw money or pass on

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NEWS

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Chief constable to leave police force

ESSEX Police Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh has announced that he will retire from policing in September after over 33 years' service and more than five years as chief constable.

Making the announcement in his weekly blog to the force, Mr Kavanagh wrote: "Leading this force has been the joy of my professional life. Together we have navigated the most difficult financial period policing has ever known."

"Today, I see an organisation with a sense of ambition for the future, one that is

stretched but determined to do its best and one that has some remarkable people doing brave and difficult jobs.

"To carry on our work means planning not just for the next year or two but for the next five or ten. I have been determined that my leadership of our force would never shirk the decisions that need to be made."

"We have done that together and so now is the right time to make a stable transition to the leadership that will take us into the next decade."

"We are fortunate to enjoy a

great relationship with an Essex public which supports our police, with some outstanding partners who understand our world and with a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in Roger Hirst who has with me fought and won arguments nationally to get more resource on our front line and to whom I'm extremely grateful for his support for what our force is trying to achieve."

Mr Kavanagh's retirement date has yet to be finalised.

He has no current plans for the future and will spend time



QUIT: Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh

with his family before exploring other career options.

Just over a year ago he was an unsuccessful applicant for the post of Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service – a role which went to Cressida Dick.

Council holding back on child abuse report

From front page

It said: "Not all the pages are numbered. While FOI allows you to request information we hold, it does not allow you to require the council to produce new information which it does not hold."

"It would take such a long time manually to produce the statistical analysis needed to respond... a response would cost more than £450."

The YA has filed a formal complaint over the council's response and has made clear that unless some data is released, we will report the council to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Abuse survivor Peter Saunders, founder of the National Association for People Abused in Childhood, said: "The council is continuing its well-trodden path of being as evasive on this issue as it possibly can, which flies in the face of any willingness to try and tackle this vile issue."

"They obviously take the view that these things are best kept secret and out of the public eye, which plays into the hands of people who abuse children."

"This makes it look like they have something to hide. It's time to shine a light on this murky past. How can taxpayers have any confidence in a council

refusing to cooperate on such a delicate, sensitive, important issue?"

James Price, campaign manager for the Taxpayers' Alliance, added: "FOI requests are among the most effective tools people have for holding politicians to account, and no attempt to avoid transparency should be allowed."

"It will seem ludicrous to anyone reading this that the council is wriggling out of its legal obligations by claiming it will take too long to release how many pages a report is."

"Taxpayers deserve not only to see the report they paid for, but to be treated with respect by their councils."

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Mon:	0546	4.90	1754	4.80
Tue:	0640	4.70	1853	4.60
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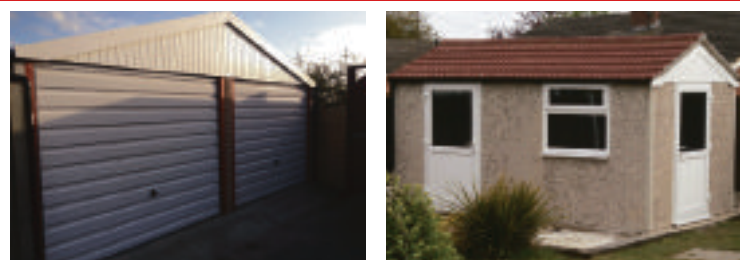
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A CANVEY school has been rated 'good' overall following its latest Ofsted inspection.

Leigh Beck Infant School, on Point Road, was visited by inspectors in March and a report outlining their findings was published last week.

The school, led by Emma Lane, was 'good' across four of five main criteria and 'outstanding' for effectiveness of leadership.

The report said the school had been "transformed" since becoming an academy, when it joined the Northwick Park Multi-Academy Trust in

2015.

It added: "Over the last four years, the uncompromising ambition and determination of the head, other leaders and governors have brought about dramatic improvements in teaching, learning, assessment and pupils' behaviour."

Pupils' academic attainment in key stage one and early years was "particularly strong" in reading and maths.

Inspectors recommended "making use of the strong practices in maths and English to improve the outcomes in other subjects".



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Quidditch World Cup call-up



SEEKER: Jonathan Purvis

A SHOEBOURY man has been selected for the UK's World Cup squad for Quidditch.

Jonathan Purvis, 21, will represent his country at a tournament for the first time in Florence at the end of June.

Quidditch is based on the sport contained in the Harry Potter novels by J.K. Rowling.

In real life, seven players on each team compete in a match in which 10 points can be gained for scoring with a ball known as the quaffle.

Jonathan's role is the seeker, which was Harry's position in

the books, and he enters the match after around 20 minutes to attempt to collect the snitch, represented by a tag attached to the snitch runner's shorts.

This gains 30 points for the team and ends the match.

Jonathan said: "My role is to catch the snitch, a bit like tag rugby really. They can run away and they can throw you around, so you have to have a lot of strength."

He read the Potter books but only started playing Quidditch in 2014 when he tried it out at University of Warwick.

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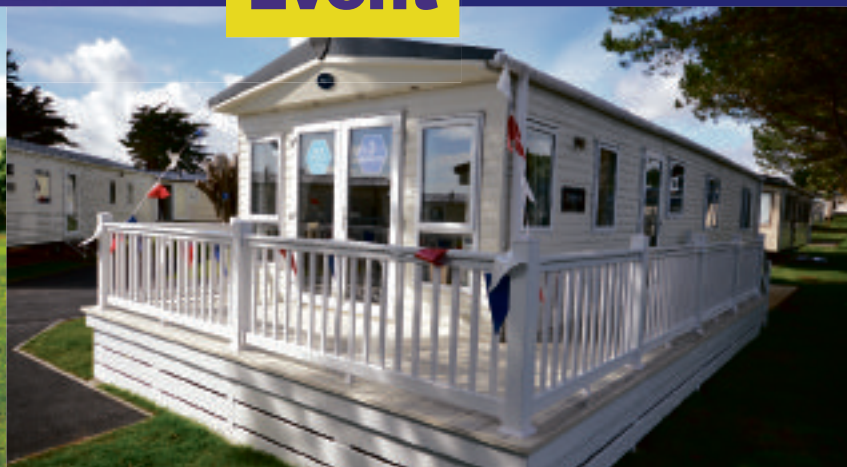
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Care home remains in special measures

A CARE home in Southend remains in special measures following its latest inspection.

Whittingham House, which is run by Strathmore Care, was visited by inspectors from the Care Quality Commission in February.

The home, in Whittingham Avenue, was rated "requires improvement" overall but will remain in special measures after being labelled "inadequate" in the well-led criteria.

It had been rated "inadequate" and put in special measures after an inspection in July last year.

In a summary of the report from February's inspection, published last month, inspectors said further improvement was required despite improvements across a range of areas including safeguarding, staff levels and training.

Inspectors wrote: "Although people told us that staff cared for them in a kind and caring manner and whilst some aspects of care by staff was seen to be good, other arrangements were not as effective as they should be and could potentially impact on the delivery of care people received."



VISIT: Care inspectors went to Whittingham House in February

They found that quality assurance arrangements were "not as effective as they should be" and that improvements needed to be made to stop residents being seated for long periods of time waiting for their meal.

Inspectors found that systems were in place that safe-

guarded residents from the potential risk of abuse, while residents at the home said they had no concerns for their safety.

Staff training was "much improved", according to inspectors, who added: "Staff had a good relationship with the people they

supported. People were supported to maintain their independence where appropriate and had their privacy respected.

"They were able to participate in a range of social activities of their choice."

Strathmore Care was contacted for comment.

Residents' group to garner support in homes battle

CAMPAIGNERS will hold an information day on Saturday to mobilise residents in a fight to overturn Basildon Council's Local Plan.

The authority passed the plan, which allocates land to accommodate almost 20,000 Government-ordered homes by 2034, by a majority vote in March.

Billericay residents campaigned against the plan which includes almost 3,300 properties in the town.

Labour, UKIP and independent councillors said the number of houses being imposed on Billericay was fair and proportionate, in line with a "spatial strategy" devised by the former

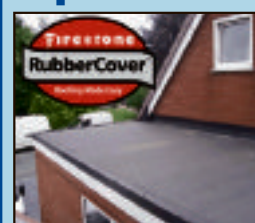
Tory administration.

But Billericay residents said the town was a special case because all of the development there would have to be on green belt land.

The Billericay Action Group, which merged with the Billericay District Residents' Association to fight the Local Plan, will hold a drop-in day at The Reading Rooms, High Street, Billericay, from 9am to 4pm.

Campaigners will advise residents on how best to respond to the upcoming Regulation 19 public consultation, before a Government inspector makes a final decision on whether the plan is sound.

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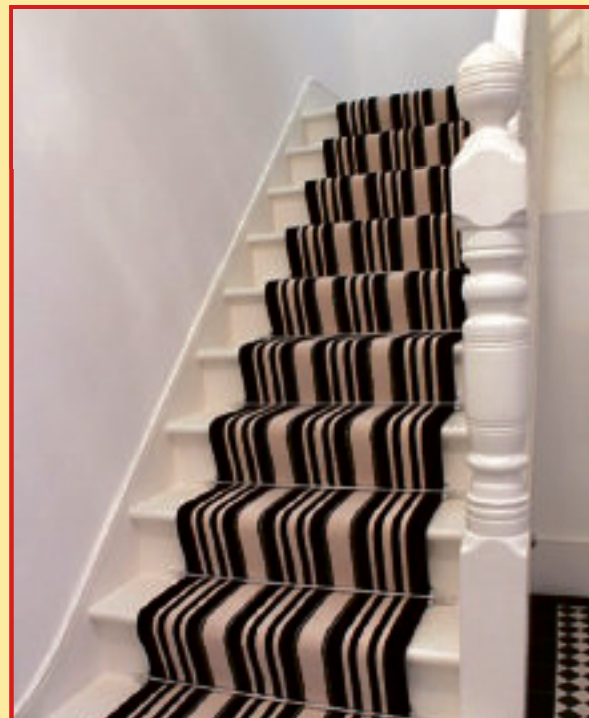
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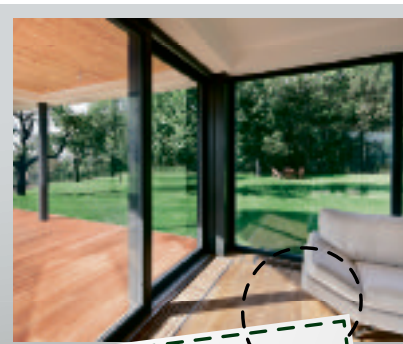
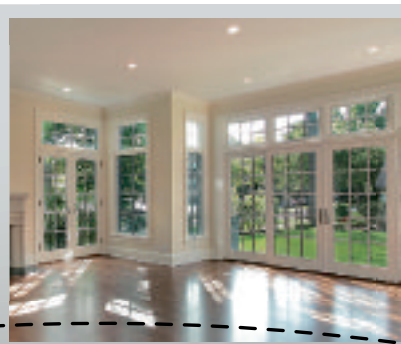
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Know who your Brexit friends are

THERE have not been many letters from the usual misinformed anti-Brexiteers lately in the *Yellow Advertiser*.

I assume that they have finally realised that with unemployment figures down, inflation down and wages up that the so-called experts that they keep quoting are not a reliable source.

Of course, some people will just continue to complain and attack those with a different opinion even when they represent the majority of the UK.

Mr Knight is one letter writer who, like myself, comes under attack, although he always writes a good letter complete with factual information and good old fashion common sense.

I look forward to a bright future after we finally regain control of our country. We will prosper from international trade and still be doing great trade with our European neighbours.

But most importantly we will understand better which EU countries are our true allies.

No second referendum is required and let's hope that our prime minister starts to get the proper support for Brexit as she did for the action taken on Syria.

Britain is soon to become great again, but we need to work together to make sure it happens.

Keith Little
Benfleet

What's the point of car park charge?

A QUESTION I feel ought to be addressed by the current administration at Castle Point Council is why do we still have parking charges at the Richmond Hall car park?

During weekdays, this car park is under used, maybe 10 to 15 spaces occupied and yet at weekends when there are no charges, it can be impossible to find somewhere to park.

The still extant local plan, adopted in 1998 stated as an objective, "To encourage the provision of a range of shopping facilities to meet the needs of local residents and to reduce the levels of retail expenditure beyond the borough". Surely a worthy aim.

The High Road branch of Santander was to close on October 25, 2018.

It is a well established fact that when local "money supply" outlets close, there is a knock-on effect to the nearby retail shops and businesses.

It must be assumed that Santander's decision to close is based on the lack of footfall.

Is it not reasonable to assume that this is, at least, partly due to the lack of car park usage and this in turn, is due to the car parking tariff?

Brian Wilson
Benfleet

Investigative journalism is so rare today

I WRITE to congratulate Charles Thomson on winning the Ray Fitzwalter Award for Investigative Journalism, up against my former colleagues at the BBC.

Investigative Journalism is a rare phenomenon nowadays and even rarer since Panorama was always making the news rather than just reporting on it.

Where are the editors like Harold Evans of The Times who broke the Thalidomide story in the 1960s?

All power to your elbow, Charles for the very real and immediate service your paper offers to its readership, and having an editor in Mick Ferris willing to put the *YA* out on a limb on more than one occasion.

Vin Harrop
Basildon

Weald Country Show and Festival of Dogs

THE Weald Country Show is back for its seventh year and promises to be even bigger and better than ever with many new attractions.

The show, which supports local and quintessentially British traditions, is at Weald Country Park, Brentwood, on Sunday to Monday, May 6-7, from 10am to 5pm.

We have many new and exciting attractions including the talented Jonathan Marshall from Britain's Got Talent and Great British Bake Off Winner, Sophie Faldo.

The National Horseboarding Championships, a new and growing sport, is at the show and great family fun.

The Food and Drink Market will have as well as Sophie, talented and exceptional chefs.

In the main ring are the Wings of the World and incredible motorbike stunts.

Talented rural crafters, including the Cheam Woodworkers, will be handmaking products such as sticks, along with blacksmiths, willow weavers and potters.

There is also medieval archery and a chance to meet the Kew Micro pigs, loads of amazing community groups, and the local astronomical society will give visitors a chance to learn more



about stargazing.

The fantastic Festivals of Dogs area will have dog rings with shows daily with over 22 classes in aid of charity, plus flyball, shows run by local agility groups and Dima from BGT.

Hold a snake, bearded dragon or tortoise with Amazing Reptiles and visit Gemma's petting farm which is a fabulous addition, educational and fun.

Shop at the lifestyle stands and the Living History Camp features 18th century living, cooking, coin-making and how people lived in the past.

Our Living History Schools project encourages schoolchildren to come along to the show dressed in living history outfits on the Monday and they can come in for free.

New this year is Bush Adventures, including axe throwing, camping demonstrations and much more.

Music comes courtesy of the county's most up and coming talent with eight bands playing daily.

■ More details at www.wealddcountryshow.co.uk



■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space. The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of this newspaper. Write to: Letters To The Editor, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH or e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk

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Advertisement feature

Bank Holiday Homes & Gardens

IN need of a new kitchen floor, but unsure what material to opt for? There are lots of options, but a few important things to consider too.

"Fitting out a kitchen is very exciting, but often you forget to think about the flooring, which is likely to be one of the largest surfaces in the room, so its selection deserves careful attention," says Jordan Reuben, from Canadian reality series, The Property Brothers.

First and foremost, there's your budget to consider, but keep in mind that it's not necessarily just a question of how much the floor will initially cost to buy and fit – some types of flooring will require more specialist cleaning, for example, or may be prone to damage and wear and tear, meaning further costs down the line to replace or repair.

As Sian O'Neill, head of marketing at Topps Tiles (toppstiles.co.uk), notes: "As the hub of the home, kitchen design is of the utmost importance to homeowners, so it's important to select flooring that is not only beautiful and hard-wearing but will stand the test of time."

Here's three key options.

1. Tiles

"Tiles are an excellent choice, as they are durable, design-led and able to stand up to the demanding conditions of kitchen spaces, with

Don't forget the kitchen flooring

high traffic, potential spills and food mess," says O'Neill.

Natural stone tiles provide a cosy and timeless look, especially for those living in an old country-style house. It's worth keeping in mind that due to their porous surfaces, these types of tiles will need additional care before and after laying, to ensure they are sealed enough to last in humid areas, and to keep their finish in top condition. As long as you're happy to maintain and look after them correctly, then the final result is luxurious and homely.

Reuben adds: "Stone flooring is available in a wide range of colours, sizes and textures, but you must ensure the stone is sealed to keep it in top condition."

2. Laminate

Want the look of real wooden boards, but that's not a realistic option budget-wise? There's good reason why laminate flooring is a trend that's stuck around. Laminate wood floor is as popular as ever. It's very modern and looks fantastic. As long as the product is

factory sealed, those wine stains will just wipe away."

Good quality laminates make a great floor for the kitchen, allowing for that authentic wood look without the drawbacks. Easy to install and maintain, homeowners can enjoy an affordable, stylish floor that will stand the test of time. More and more are now water resistant, adding to their appeal, and are suitable with underfloor heating.

3. Luxury vinyl

Modern vinyl is becoming increasingly popular as a cost-effective option to tiles and laminate. It comes in all different patterns, and good-quality vinyl can be very hard-wearing.

Luxury vinyl is undoubtedly the floor of the moment, offering that perfect blend of good looks, durability and ease of maintenance.

A big part of the appeal is the scope of designs available. Design choice is almost unlimited, which means this type is often the go-to kitchen floor for those looking for performance, style and value.

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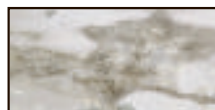
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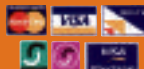


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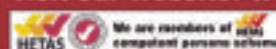
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LIFESTYLE

Hair-raising fun

By Lewis Berrill

features@yellowad.co.uk

THE WORLD renowned glam-fiesta musical Hairspray is coming to Southend's Cliffs Pavilion from May 14 to 19.

Due to phenomenal public demand, Hairspray has announced a new UK tour after a successful first run.

Having entertained audiences across the country since opening last summer, Mark Goucher is pleased to announce eight additional tour venues for 2018 – including another visit to Southend.

It's Baltimore 1962, where Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, is on a mission to follow her dreams and dance her way onto national TV.

Her audition makes her a local star and soon she is using her new-found fame to fight for equality, bagging local heartthrob Link Larkin along the way.

Featuring music and lyrics by Academy Award, Tony and Emmy-winning duo Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, this much-loved musical comedy currently stars ITV comedy legend Norman Pace as Wilbur Turnblad, Brenda Edwards as Motormouth Maybelle and Layton Williams as Seaweed.

Highly-lauded newcomer Rebecca Mendoza makes her professional debut as Tracy Turnblad.

The spectacular show is



HAIRSPRAY: The Turnblad Family – Edna (Matt Rixon), Tracy (Rebecca Mendoza) and Wilbur (Norman Pace) Photo by Darren Bell

choreographed by Olivier Award-winning Drew McOnie with direction from Paul Kerryson.

Matt Rixon, who the *Yellow Advertiser* exclusively interviewed, plays bubbly Edna Turnblad.

He is returning to his role having first appeared in Hairspray on the previous

tour. "I came back for a second tour because it is absolutely fantastic," he exclaimed. "It's a brilliant story, with incredible music and Edna is such a wonderful part. What's not to love? When they asked me back, I leaped at the opportunity."

He played the last show of the previous tour in

Southend and said: "Everyone was so tired at that point. But the audience went absolutely ballistic, it really lifted us."

"Sure, it's not the biggest theatre, but the audience's energy and passion made it feel huge – they were on their feet dancing in the isles."

Those who saw the last show will be in for a treat, Matt promised. "It's actually an even better production than last time. The choreography and the set have really been juiced up."

While the show is a high-octane sensory experience, with energy, colours and bombastic music, there is a

poignant element.

"This is a story about a young girl who doesn't understand why white and black people shouldn't dance together," said Matt.

"It's a celebration of being who you are and who you want to be without fear of judgement."

"However, the remarkable situation in America today shows that even though the story is set in the Sixties, we have not moved forward as much as we may of previously thought we had."

Hairspray is a musical based on the 1988 film of the same name, which starred Divine and Ricki Lake, by cult film-maker John Waters, with music and lyrics by Shaiman and Wittman and book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan.

Hairspray opened to rave reviews on Broadway in 2002 and subsequently won eight Tony Awards.

It opened in London at the Shaftesbury Theatre in 2007 and won four Olivier Awards including Best New Musical.

Hairspray has opened in South Africa, Japan, South Korea, China and Dubai.

Following the musical's success on stage, a film of the musical was released in 2007 which starred John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer and James Marsden.

■ Ticket prices range from £33.50 to £50.50. To book go to <https://southendtheatres.org.uk/Online/tickets-hairspray-southend-2018>.

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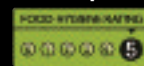


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Fortune favours the brave

TULLY (15, 96 mins)

MOTHER doesn't know best – she is teetering on the precipice of a nervous breakdown in Jason Reitman's beautifully crafted and bitter-sweet portrait of modern parenthood.

The third collaboration between the Montreal-born director and screenwriter Diablo Cody, who won an Oscar for her exemplary script for Juno, conceals poignant home truths behind trademark snappy dialogue and a mistimed sleight of hand that leaves a satisfying lump in the throat.

There is undeniable pleasure in unravelling the many layers to Reitman's delicately observed film and the flawed yet deeply sympathetic characters, who struggle to articulate their fears to each other and prefer to suffer in anguished silence.

It is not until a 21st century Mary Poppins, who takes multitasking to dizzying new heights, materialises in the fractured family home and re-energises the exhausted matriarch with an endless supply of self-help aphorisms, that an emotional dam breaks and the words and tears cascade.

Charlize Theron delivers a heartbreaking performance as a mother of three who is desperate to dodge the postnatal depression she suffered after the birth of her "quirky" second child, but is reluctant to ask for help.

It's a transformative role for the Oscar-winning actress, who gained more than 20kg to convincingly portray her cluckless mother hen.

Marlo (Theron) is poised to give birth to and welcome a new life into the cluttered home she shares with her husband Drew (Ron

MOTHER AND SON: Charlize Theron and Asher Miles Fallica in *Tully*
PA Photo/Tully Productions, LLC/Photo Features/Kimberly French

Livingston), son Jonah (Asher Miles Fallica) and eight-year-old daughter Sarah (Lia Frankland).

Her wealthy brother Craig (Mark Duplass) is concerned that Marlo won't cope and he offers to pay for a night nanny, who will take care of the baby after dark, allowing his sister to get a good night's sleep.

Initially, Marlo rejects his kind offer and she soldiers on, trading barbs with concerned school headmistress Laurie (Gameela Wright), who fears her staff can't adequately cater to Jonah special needs.

When the pressure becomes too much, Marlo calls the night nanny and 26-year-old Tully (Mackenzie Davis) arrives at the front door and immediately takes charge.

"I'm like Saudi Arabia. I have an energy surplus," grins Tully as she bakes, cleans and nurtures while mere mortals sleep.

Marlo forges a close bond with the enigmatic younger woman, and that friendship deepens when it becomes evident that Tully's expertise extends far beyond mewing newborns.

"You can't be a good mother if you don't practise self-care," she counsels soothingly.

Tully is carefully embroidered with exquisite lines of pithy dialogue that demonstrate Cody's finely tuned ear for free-flowing conversation.

Theron is the picture's steady emotional heartbeat and her raw, unselfconscious portrayal nourishes supporting cast including a luminous turn from Davis.

The audacity of the final act will prove divisive, but fortune favours the brave and Reitman's picture is quietly assured in its boldness.

Released: May 4
RATING: 8/10

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Friday, May 4

- New Crawdaddy Blues Club – Holiday Inn, Festival Leisure Park, Waterfront Walk, Basildon, SS14 3DG. Tom C. Walker Band, £10 admission on the door. Visit www.newcrawdaddyclub.co.uk or call 01702 347007.
- New beginners' introduction to silk painting and porcelain painting – Royal Naval Association, 73-79 East Street, Southend, SS2 6LQ. 9.45am to noon. £6. No experience needed.
- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Overeaters Anonymous Basildon Group – Nevenden Community Hall, St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Basildon, SS13 1BZ. 8pm, Colin, 07446 080054.
- George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, beginners tai chi: 10am to noon, darts: 2-4pm, snooker: 10 to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm. Snooker and bingo, £2, 01268 465854.
- Sequence Dancing – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 2.15-3.15pm. 01268 465854.
- Book Club – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 10-11am. 01268 465854.
- Drama Classes – Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, not a stage school, designed to increase children's life skills, to enrol call Dina 01245 328680.
- Table Tennis – Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, off High Street, for over-50s, 11am-1pm, 07931 564105.
- Plant sale and May fayre – 11am-1pm, Belfairs Methodist Church, Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4NG. Stalls with arts & crafts, gifts, cakes, toys, books and more. Refreshments, full

Saturday, May 5

- English breakfast and snacks. Items for stalls received on Friday, May 4, 2-4pm. Contact 01268 558756.
- Rayleigh History Walk – 3pm from Rayleigh Windmill, Bellingham Lane, SS6 7ED. £2 per person, proceeds to upkeep of Rayleigh Mount. Contact Mike Stone 01268 775328.
- Quiz night – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 7.30pm. Eight per table max £6 per head. To book: 01268 752012.
- Ploughman's lunch – Canvey Methodist Church, Waarden Road, 11am-12.30pm. £3.
- South East Essex Ramblers – Five miles, Hawkwell. Starts 10am. Free car park in Clements Hall Leisure Complex SS5 4LN. 07860 738777.
- Rayleigh History Walk – Rayleigh Windmill, Bellingham Lane, 3pm. £2. Details 01268 775328.
- Saturday Club – for people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards, Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon. 01268 415409.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini-tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
- Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am to noon, free entry, 01702 437863.
- South East Essex Ramblers – Five miles, The Scrubs and Ironwell Lane, 10am. Meet at leisure centre car park in Hawkwell, (Sweynes Avenue). Circular walk with woodland, field edges and bridleways. Steve & Rosie 01702 354375.
- Canvey Miniature Railway Train Rides – by Waterside Sports Centre, Sommes Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9RA. 10.30am-3.45pm. Adults and children £1 each a ride, weather permitting, 07950 659596.
- Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz Duo – Woodmans Arms, Rayleigh Road, Thundersley, 1pm. 01268 775799.
- Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, 9.15am-12.15pm, 01277 627043.
- Exercise Class for stroke victims – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
- Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House,

Sunday, May 6

- Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
- King's Church, Southend – Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am to noon, 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southern & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourios and St Paul's, Salisbury Ave, Westcliff, 10am to noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kln Road, Thundersley, (ages three to 12), 10.45-11.45am, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 07757 658799.
- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut – behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell, 10am to noon. Membership £3.
- Essex Wildlife Trust – Bank Holiday Wild Beach at Chalkwell Beach, 10am-12.30pm. Discover our amazing coast by exploring the seashore. Fabulous things to make and take home. Outdoors, so dress appropriately. Booking essential. £8 donation per child. Call 01702477467. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet on Chalkwell Esplanade near ramp from Chalkwell Station. Chalkwell Railway Station, The Ridgeway, Leigh-On-Sea.
- Walking football sessions – Civic Hall, Grays, 6-7pm. £2 per session.
- Ron Spack's Jazztet – Graham Hunter, trumpet, Dave Mascal, guitar. Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, Southend, 8.30pm. Details 01702 512819.
- Bowls – FS&S Club, Gardeners Close, Basildon. All-weather green, free coaching, details call Chris 01268 419831.
- Green bowls – Mopsies Park, Vange, details 01268 558756.
- Coffee Morning and sale of goods – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon.
- Club 50+ – 1B Queen's Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Sunshine Coffee Morning – for parents in Craylands and Felmores area. Friscoe Community Centre, 9-11am. Free workshop, coffee and creche. Call 07880 035988, or just turn up.
- Dance Class – ballroom, Latin American, Ashington and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/ 542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Turn up or call 01268 727915.
- Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Counselling Service – Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346,

- enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Fryerns Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.
- Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call 01702 343611 or 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Blvd, Southend, all standards, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, Bowers and Pitsea Football Club, Crown Avenue, Pitsea. SS13 2BE. 07913 426371, join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Short Mat Bowls Club – Westwood School, Hadleigh, welcomes new members Monday and Wednesday evenings, Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls, Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, Ray 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Monday 2-4pm, 01268 465854.
- Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club – Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.
- Evening of clairvoyance – 57 Point Road, Canvey, SS8 7TT. 3pm, £3 all profits to charity. Tel: 07922 001433 or 01268 691922.
- Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15-8.15pm, 01702 715503.
- Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.
- Hadleigh Castle Townswomen's Guild – Appliance Hall, Old Fire Station, High Street SS7 2PA, 1.30-3.30pm. Visitors £2.50.
- IT help sessions – Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Details 01277 624624.
- Tuesday, May 8
- Social Club (over-50s) singles and couples. Table tennis, snooker, 8-10pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Ashington. Drop in or call 01702 548597.
- Computer help session – Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Free. 01277 624624.
- Painting class – The Studio, Giebelands Nursery, Hawkwell, Hockley, SS5 4JY. 10.30am-12.30pm. Details 01702 30717.

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FOOD & DRINK

Have a meal with soap star

A LOCAL hospice is offering a unique opportunity to enjoy a three-course meal with a TV soap legend.

Havens Hospices is inviting people to enjoy a sumptuous seafood lunch at Simply Seafood in Old Leigh on Sunday, May 13 with the charity's patron, Rudolph Walker OBE, who plays Patrick Trueman in BBC One soap EastEnders.

The lunch will take place from 12-4pm with the set menu featuring an exclusive chef's special "Rudolph" chicken dish, a raffle and the chance to meet Rudolph whilst raising money for a new Fair Havens Hospice.

Owner of Simply Seafood, Marios Theoklitou, said: "I first met Rudolph last year when he came to the restaurant for lunch. When I found out he was a patron of Havens Hospices I asked if he would agree to come to an event to help me raise funds for this amazing local charity."

"I understand the building will begin on the new adult hospice in Priory Crescent later this year and I am very happy to support this."

"I have been busy creating the 'Rudolph's' special chicken dish which will have a distinctive Caribbean taste to reflect Rudolph's heritage, as well as some new canapés with a seafood theme."

Fair Havens Hospice is part of Havens Hospices which also incorporates Little Havens Hospice for children and The J's Hospice for young adults. They provide respite, symptom control and end-of-life care to babies, children, teenagers and adults with life-limiting conditions.


The event will raise money for a new Fair Havens Hospice in Prittlewell which will care for twice as many patients facing an illness that cannot be cured and from which they are likely to die.

Havens Hospices Community Fundraiser, Sally Bridger, said: "Rudolph had been a patron of Havens Hospices for many years and we are delighted he is offering this exclusive opportunity to our supporters of enjoying lunch with him, whilst supporting the new Fair Havens Hospice."

"The day is sure to be an event to remember and with some delicious options on the set menu we hope to see lots of our supporters there."

Tickets are £24.95 and include a three-course dinner. Raffle tickets are available to purchase from Simply Seafood and prizes include a hamper and Fruits de Mer platter.

To book tickets or for more information contact Marios at Simply Seafood on 01702 716645.



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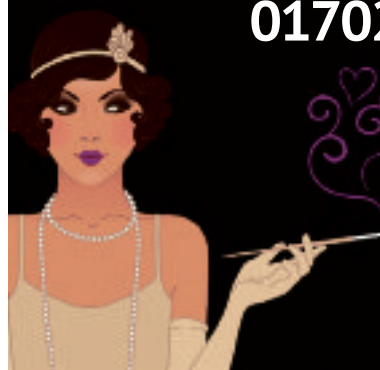
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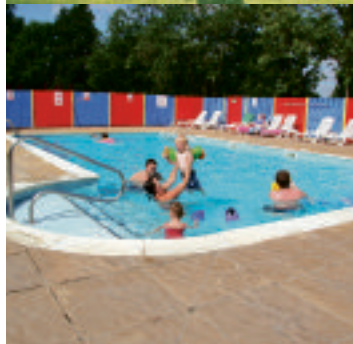
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Stuart Thomas wins customer service award at The ESTAS

STUART THOMAS Estate Agents has won an award at The ESTAS – the most prestigious awards scheme in the UK property industry sponsored by Zoopla.

The Thundersley-based agency received the Bronze in the South East Essex category at the prestigious ESTAS Customer Service Awards for 2018, the biggest awards in the UK property industry.

Stuart Thomas said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be recognised at this year's ESTAS. It means so much to us as we know it's our customers who have judged our performance."

"We take our levels of customer service very seriously because we know clients have a choice."

"We have always been very proud of the personal service and this proves we are delivering what we promise."

The winners were announced by Phil Spencer, the TV property expert at a lavish luncheon and ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane,



The Stuart Thomas team with Phil Spencer, second left

London attended by 1,000 of the UK's top property professionals.

The awards, celebrating their 15th year determine the best estate and letting agents in the UK based purely on feedback from customers who are asked a

series of questions about the service they have received from their agent.

More than 36,000 surveys were completed by customers during the competition.

Mr Spencer, who has hosted The ESTAS every

year since their inception in 2003, said: "The ESTAS are special because shortlisted and winning firms are selected purely on the service you deliver to your clients. Real feedback from real customers experiencing real service, I don't think

there can be a greater honour in the industry than to receive an award based on that mantra."

Estate and letting agents were recognised in 25 regions around the UK. National Grand Prix Awards were also announced for the

Best Single Agent Office in sales and lettings.

Simon Brown, founder of The ESTAS said: "At The ESTAS we're proud to say we believe in old fashioned values like customer service."

"We know how hard it is to deliver it and that's why we put the spotlight on property firms who are committed to providing excellent service."

"The ESTAS brand helps generate consumer trust for all property professionals involved in the home moving process."

Charlie Bryant, new Managing Director of ZPG's Property division, addressed the audience, saying: "ZPG's objectives are precisely aligned with those of The ESTAS because we know how demanding consumers are. The ESTAS awards are based on the public votes you receive, so your recognition today is much deserved."

"Many congratulations to all of this year's winners and runners-up who have been recognised for the excellent standard of customer service they delivered throughout the year."

stuart thomas

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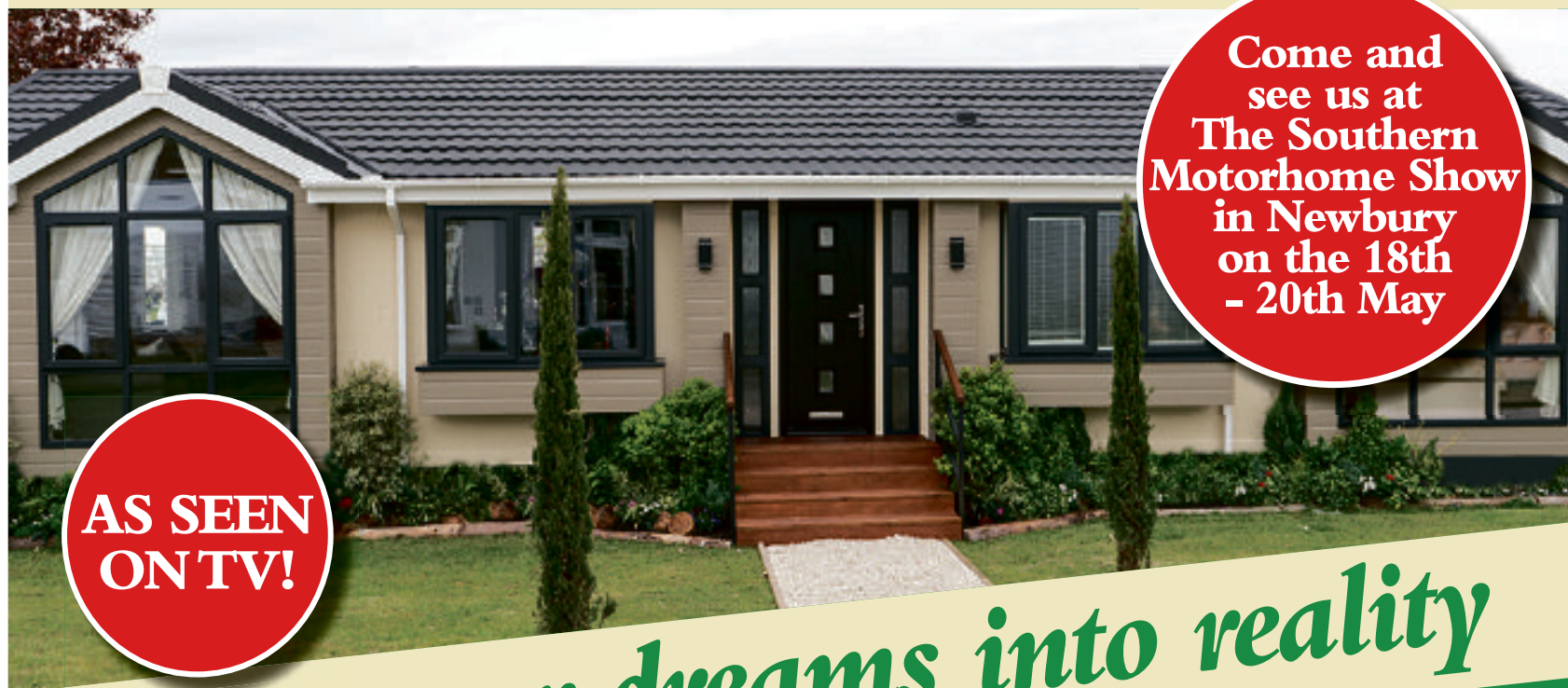


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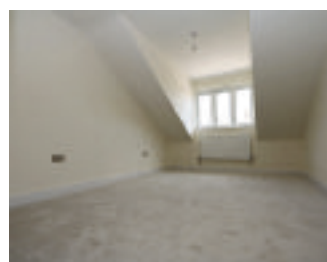
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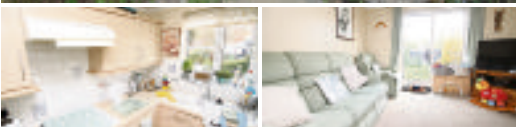
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RAYLEIGH / **£725,000 to £750,000**

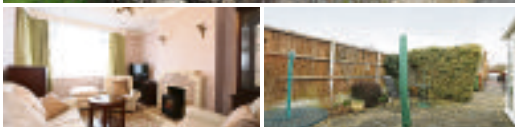
Detached Family House \ Fabulous Love Lane Area \ Byford Built Family Residence \ Five Bedrooms \ Yards From Rayleigh Primary School \ Walk To Rayleigh Station & Vibrant High Street \ No Onward Chain - Quick Sale Possible \ Detached Double Width Garage \ Bright, Spacious Living Space \ Four Reception Rooms \ Good Size Plot \ Rarely Available \ **Call Rayleigh Office on 01268 742742 or Live Chat At amosestates.com**

CANEWDON / **£265,000**

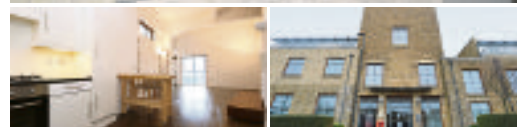
Three Bedroom Terraced House \ Well Proportioned Accommodation Throughout \ Ideal Buy To Let Or First Time Purchase \ Communal Parking \ Quiet Location \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Backing Onto Park Providing Pleasant Views To Rear \ Low Maintenance Rear Garden \ Spacious Lounge \ Rural Village Location \ Viewing Strictly By Appointment Only \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 or Live Chat at amosestates.com**

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Perfect DIY Project \ Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow \ Bold Corner Position \ Double Glazed Windows \ Lounge With Fireplace \ Double Glazed Conservatory \ Measter Bedroom With Fitted Wardrobes \ Bathroom Suite \ Wrought Iron Gates Top Parking Area \ No Onward Chain \ Keys Held For Immediate Viewing \ **Call Hockley Office on 01702 207720 or live chat at amosestates.com**

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Hadleigh / **£795 pcm**

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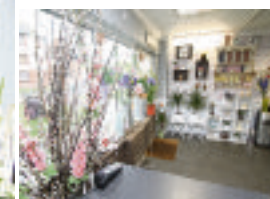
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£222,000

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- 2 DOUBLE BEDS
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- REF: EBE3779

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£265,000

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- Great potential
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- REF: EBE3763

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- IDEAL PROJECT

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Detached with great potential



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- No Onward Chain



RAYLEIGH £350,000

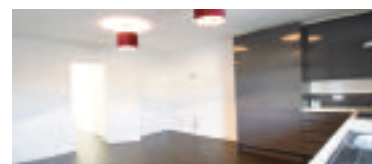
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge With Wood Burner
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Victorian Style Conservatory
- 70' Rear Garden
- Ample Off Road Parking / Garage Space
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- Super Kitchen
- 4 Reception Rooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Outbuildings
- Extensive Parking
- Must Be Viewed Internally



RAYLEIGH £225,000

- 2 Bedrooms
- Super Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Luxury Shower Room
- Shared Pool Garden
- Own Court Yard Garden
- Parking For Two Cars
- Well Maintained Throughout
- No Onward Chain
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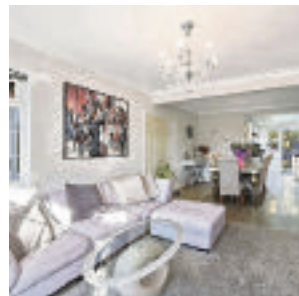
12/14 Berry's Arcade, High Street, Rayleigh SS6 7EQ
 Darren Emmett: darren@stgeorgehomes.co.uk

Thorpe Bay 700,000



Situated less than half a mile away from Thorpe Bay seafront is this extended detached family that offers spacious living accommodation throughout. To the ground floor there is a stunning kitchen / family room with a feature lantern style roof and bi folding doors that lead to the rear garden. There is also a lounge that is accessed from the family room and a further reception room to the front of the property that can be used as an office or playroom. To the first floor there are four good size bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Southend-On-Sea 675,000



Peter Howard Properties are delighted to offer for sale this stunning fully detached house built on an exceptionally spacious plot. This beautiful home consists of many rooms including an open plan kitchen/orangery, cinema room and further lounge areas. Upstairs is equally as accommodating with four double bedrooms and two bathrooms. If the beach life is also something you enjoy then this location is perfect.

Leigh-On-Sea 600,000



Peter Howard Properties are delighted to offer for sale this stunning semi-detached family home located in one of the most desirable locations of Leigh on sea.

Southend-On-Sea 250,000



Peter Howard Properties are delighted to offer for sale this beautifully presented two bedroom ground floor apartment. Located within the ever popular Clifftown conservation area.

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Southend On Sea £129,950



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Southend On Sea £600 pcm



- Fully refurbished
- Ground floor flat
- One bedroom
- Own rear garden

Southend On Sea £900 pcm



- Spacious lounge
- Separate dining room
- Two double bedrooms
- West backing garden

Westcliff On Sea Shop To Let £7,000 Per Annum



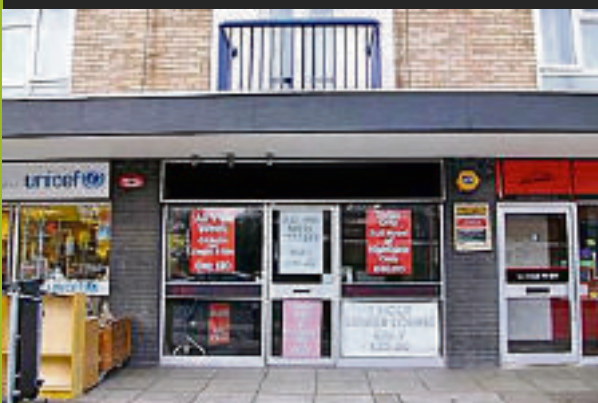
- 440 Sq Ft
- Good Trading Location
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- Close to Public Car Parks

Southend On Sea Shop To Let £35,000 Per Annum



- 1,171 Sq Ft
- Refurbished
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- Internal / External Roller Shutters

Benfleet Shop To Let £13,750 Per Annum



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- High Road Position
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- Rent Free Period Available
- Large Retail Area
- Rear Storage



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Rayleigh £350,000-£365,000

Three double bedroom semi-detached bungalow. Nestled in the heart of Rayleigh this charming, well loved bungalow resides in a quiet, sought after residential road, yet is just off a central location with an array of local shops and amenities. This delightful bungalow has many attributes including: a light flooded 20' lounge, a 13' conservatory, three good sized double bedrooms and a decent sized bathroom too, making it a popular choice for first time buyers, comuter families and also the perfect downsize. This well proportioned property has the added benefit of being in excellent school catchment for well regarded schools including Fitzwimarc and Grove wood primary school.

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



Rayleigh

Guide Price £400,000 - £435,000

This stunning, significantly extended four double bedroom chalet style semi-detached house is set in the ideal location. Boasting Fitzwimarc and Grovewood school catchment this beautiful home makes for the ideal family home. Recently refurbished to a high standard, this unique home has been decorated to a high specification, with neutral, elegant, contemporary styling throughout. With four double rooms and a luxurious en-suite to the master bedroom this perfect, spacious home ticks all the boxes. Boasting a 21' lounge and a 15' kitchen diner this stylish home, affords luxury and space for everyone. With ample parking to the recently block paved drive and a detached garage accessed to the side, this home has everything covered, leaving you, nothing to do, but lay your furniture down and relax in your comfortable surroundings. So book your viewing today - as this is one not to be missed.



Hullbridge £385,000-£400,000

Competitively priced four bedroom detached chalet style house, in popular Hullbridge village, which offers good accommodation for all the family. This well laid out spacious home, boasts a 22' lounge/diner a 22' conservatory, (housing a utility area and garden room) a homework/office area, a family bathroom (and separate shower room) and a beautiful sizeable secluded garden, perfect for for the kids to play in and family entertaining in summer months. Nestled in the heart of Hullbridge village with its array of local amenities, transport links, schools, and 3 stations all under 2.2 miles away! This sizeable home has everything a family needs with ample parking for all the family and even a garage for dad!



Hullbridge £335,000-£345,000

Nestled in this pretty tree-lined road with all local amenities close by, is this attractive and significantly extended three bedroom semi-detached house. With its lovely low maintenance garden, stunning open plan 28 ft lounge (with extended dining area) driveway for multiple cars and luxury soft close kitchen, with granite surfaces and Neff integrated appliances. The location of this home is hard to beat, with local shops, main bus routes and two stations under 1.95 miles all close by, who could ask for more?



Rayleigh £240,000-£265,000

Hair and Son of Rayleigh are proud to market this high specification, ground floor double bedroom maisonette with its own private garden. Situated in a prime location, just a short walk away from Rayleigh's mainline station and vibrant town centre, with all the excellent amenities it affords. Boasting an impressive kitchen, equipped with coloured ambience lighting throughout and a tasteful lounge/diner overlooking a pretty decked garden. This perfect property is ideal for commuters, first time buyers and investors alike and also offers the additional convenience of allocated off street parking and nothing to do but move your furniture straight in and call it home! Book your viewing today.

6 High Street, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7EG
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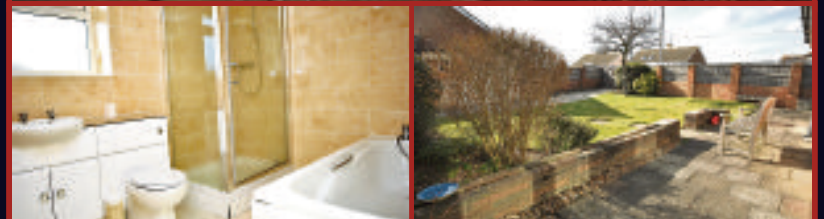


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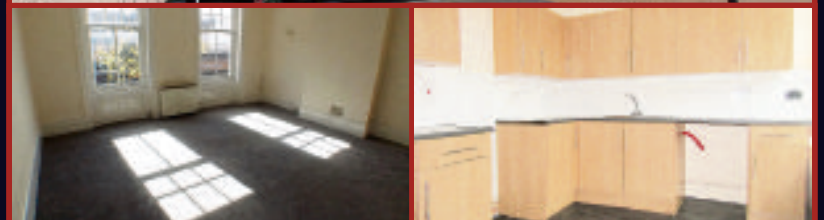
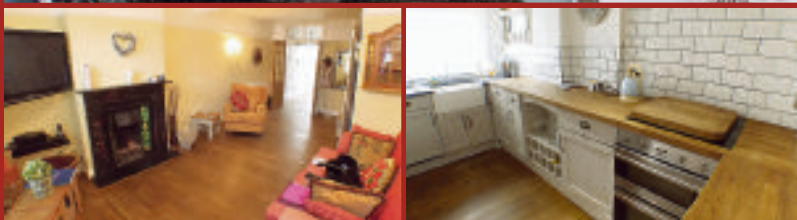


Rayleigh Guide Price £375,000-£385,000

Hair and son are delighted to market this immaculate, two double bedroom detached bungalow, situated in a peaceful, sought after, cul de sac location on a generous secluded plot. This beautiful home is ideal for first time buyers, or those looking for the perfect downsizer but still needing to be close to rayleigh station, the town centre and all its amenities. This stunning bungalow boast many attributes including: a 24' light flooded lounge, spacious accommodation throughout, modern, luxury newly fitted kitchen/breakfast room, stunning luxury family newly fitted five piece bathroom suite, and even affords off street parking with a garage and the all important stunning, secluded rear garden with beautiful far reaching views. So book your viewing today to avoid disappointment.

Rayleigh Asking Price £360,000

Hair and Son of Rayleigh are proud to present, this remarkable chalet bungalow with double rooms throughout. Set in a sought after location, this attractive, sizeable bungalow has a wealth of charm and potential and dominates an impressive corner plot. This perfect bungalow, has the major advantage of a beautiful south facing garden, with a detached garage which can be admired through the patio doors from its light flooded 21' lounge / diner. Even the hallway is large and bright giving the whole property a feeling of space which is a rarity for properties such as this. Primely located for, the station, high street, good schools and local amenities this unique bungalow, is hard to beat and suits all market places from commuter families to the perfect downsizer and therefore viewing comes highly recommended.



Southend On Sea £1,100 pcm

A two bedroom semi-detached cottage, lounge with French louvre windows, with a decorative fireplace, original wooden flooring, leading into a kitchen diner/conservatory with Double glazed doors leading into the garden. 2 bedrooms with French louvre shutters. Available for viewing now.

Chelmsford £900 pcm

A THREE bedroom first and second floor maisonette located in the heart of Chelmsford town centre. Central location. Available immediately. No Pets. No Smokers. Working applicants only. No top ups.

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Agent Directory

Auctions power ahead while private treaties stall, says Auction House

Research by the UK's leading auctioneer suggests that the auction market is continuing to prosper, while estate agent sales are still struggling. Auction House – which has a branch in Essex – says the latest data from the Land Registry indicates that 2017 saw a 21% decrease in residential sales compared to 2016, whilst the group's own auction figures were at record levels. Director, Andrew Stallard said: "We had an excellent year in 2017 with 3,485 lots sold – which is over 1,250 ahead of the second largest auctioneer. Also, our entries this month are up again year-on-year, with 740 lots catalogued for February – a total which is 5% ahead of the number in 2017." Andrew says that he believes the reason behind the rise is because auction has now become more mainstream, with its attractions better understood. He explains: "There are two ways to sell a property. The first is to start low and bid up – as happens in auctions. The other is the 'start high and discount down' method used by estate agents. If your property is suitable for auction, then the selling price achieved will be around the same level or sometimes better, and the sale will be quick and easy. What's more, when the hammer falls contracts have exchanged and the sale is certain. "But there are some provisos. Firstly you should be entering it into a regional auction room where local properties tend to be sold to local buyers for more money, rather than one that is out of area. Secondly, the marketing and reserve price will both need to be right – and you can trust Auction House to help with this." Andrew also says that a wide variety of properties fall into the category of those most suited to auction. He adds: "Our results show

that any property that would benefit from refurbishment, renovation or development is right for auction, or where there are issues such as a short lease, structural concerns, or other factors that make them unmortgageable. "We regularly sell commercial lots, mixed use, all sorts of land, plus ground rents and all manner of other unusual lots. We also sell residential investments for landlords who leave their tenants in residence when selling – the big benefit here is that the seller keeps receiving rent until completion and the purchasing landlord takes over the tenancy and draws income from the day that they complete their purchase. "Selling by auction really does make sense. That's why it is growing in popularity, becoming more mainstream and delivering a speedy result for an increasing number of sellers." If you have a property that might be suitable for auction, then please call Auction House on 01702 33 33 99.



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- Extensive parking facilities via rear access



NEW TO MARKET

SOLE AGENTS

THUNDERLSEY £327,000

- Sought after and quiet Cul de Sac within King John School catchment
- Vacant three bedroom semi detached house
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- Three piece shower room
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- Immaculately presented throughout



NEW TO MARKET



LEIGH-ON-SEA £315,000

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Simple tyre checks save lives

By Chris Russon

ALMOST three quarters of motorway incidents related to tyre failure could be prevented if drivers carry out simple checks, according to new research unveiled by Highways England and tyre company Bridgestone.

More than 30 people were killed or seriously injured in motorway accidents in 2016 due to illegal or faulty tyres.

But an 18-month study says commuters, commercial drivers and other road users can do a lot more to help reduce accidents through regular checking.

Richard Leonard, Highways England's head of road safety, said: "This important research confirms our view that road users must play a bigger role and get into the habit of checking tyre pressures and tread depths and looking out for nails and other debris stuck in tyres before setting out on journeys.

These simple checks could save lives."

At the Commercial Vehicle Show at Birmingham's NEC, the research revealed that almost three quarters of tyre failure samples analysed by Bridgestone involved poor inflation or debris penetration issues – problems which could be potentially avoided with better tyre husbandry.

Bridgestone and Highways England are partners in multi-agency road safety charity Tyresafe.

They carried out the research over 18 months between the start of 2016 and last summer.

During the project, Highways England staff at depots in the West Midlands provided more than 1,000 pieces of tyre debris from motorways to an engineering team from Bridgestone to analyse.

The findings from 1,035 tyre segments retrieved from the M1, M6, M40, M5 and M42 revealed:



■ 56% of tyres failed due to road/yard debris penetration.

■ 18% failed due to poor inflation.

■ 8% failed due to poor vehicle maintenance.

■ 1% failed due to manufacturing defects.

■ 1% failed due to excessive heat.

■ 16% couldn't be

specified to one particular problem.

The debris was taken from cars, vans, commercial vehicles and motorbikes, with under-inflation of tyres a key theme, along with poor vehicle maintenance, both of which accounted for 26 per cent of the entire sample.

In addition, the cost to

the economy from a two-hour delay on a busy motorway following a two-lane closure stands at £135,360 and £1,488,960 for a three-lane closure lasting up to four hours.

Some of the samples were particularly alarming, with a temporary "space-saver" spare tyre being run to destruction, while a

number of potentially lethal and illegal "string" repairs were also found on car tyres, which are unsuitable at any speed, let alone 70mph on motorways.

Bridgestone technical manager Gary Powell, who oversaw the analysis of the debris with field engineer Peter Moulding and the firm's technical department, said: "This report has taken a great deal of time and effort, involving a painstaking process of collecting tyre debris over 18 months and analysing it in depth thereafter.

"In conclusion, some simple tyre checks can save lives, not to mention reduce the risk of a stressful breakdown on a motorway.

"In light of these results, we would also advise that tyre pressure monitoring systems (TPMS) are fitted to vehicles which don't benefit from this technology already. It will assist with the detection of penetrations and deflations."

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We, Navana Ltd, hereby make application to vary the Premises Licence in respect of Navana Restaurant, 136 Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1AA. The proposed variation is: 1. To revise the licence conditions to include a reduction in the permitted capacity of the premises. 2. To increase the terminal hour for licensable activities to 23.00 on Sundays to Thursdays. All other licensed times are unchanged. Responsible authorities or any person may make representations to the Licensing Authority (Southend-on-Sea Borough Council). All such representations shall be made in writing, by 23rd May 2018. Representations should be sent to the Licensing Authority, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre (Floor 13), Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6ZG, or emailed to licac2003@southend.gov.uk. A record of the application, and the statutory register of the Licensing Authority, may be inspected at the Council's office address given above, between 10am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays. Or on their website www.southend.gov.uk. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is level 5 on the standard scale.

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HAMMERS NO MATCH FOR SUPERB CITY

Football

**West Ham United 1
Manchester City 4**
Brian Jeeves reporting
from the London Stadium

WEST HAM United found Manchester City in sparkling form as the champions eased to an impressive 4-1 victory on Sunday.

With Stoke and Southampton closing the gap on the teams above them, the Hammers' cushion from the drop zone has reduced to a precarious three points.

The east Londoners were forced into a change in goal with Adrian coming in for Joe Hart who was ineligible against his parent club.

David Moyes made one further change from the side that had collapsed late on at Arsenal with Patrice Evra replacing Joao Mario. All-conquering City arrived in the capital chasing down one hundred points and goals for what has been a remarkable campaign.

Pep Guardiola was without injured duo, Sergio Agüero and John Stones, although City were boosted by the return of Fernandinho after a two-match ban. City created the first clear-cut opening when Ilkay Gundogan was a whisker away from contact with Raheem Sterling's low centre.

But it didn't take the champions long to open their account. Leroy Sané's drive deflected off Evra, wrong-footing the stranded Adrian.

Ederson had largely been a spectator during the early stages. But the City stopper reacted quickly to



SHOT: Gabriel Jesus fires Manchester City's third goal past Adrian
Photo Adam Dawy/PA Wire

direct Manuel Lanzini's low cross away. Meanwhile, Sterling scuffed wide as City continued to dominate.

It was soon 2-0. Adrian and Angelo Ogbonna combined to thwart Sterling, but when Kevin De Bruyne recycled the move and delivered from the right, Declan Rice and Pablo Zabaleta became tangled and could only look on in anguish as the ball deflected off the pair before trickling agonisingly over the line.

Marko Arnautovic was harshly denied a goal, referee Neil Swarbrick chalking off the Austrian's effort after he had pounced on the dithering Ederson.

But three minutes before the break the Hammers hit back. Aaron Cresswell fizzed an angled dead-ball effort beyond Ederson's reach.

It took City just eight second-half

minutes to add to their tally. Sterling's trickery on the right fashioned an opening for Gabriel Jesus who steadied himself before dispatching past the exposed Adrian.

The fourth goal arrived when Fernandinho swept home from 12 yards after Sterling had again played a part in the move.

West Ham now face an anxious finale to the season with their Premier League status very much in the balance.

"They were far better than us, outstandingly good," Moyes remarked after the game.

Moyes has faced criticism over team selection in recent weeks and was targeted after substituting Lanzini. The Hammers chief said: "The players have got to understand, we play to keep the ball.

"Manu had a great chance to

keep the ball and we ended up losing the fourth goal for it."

West Ham return to Premier League action on Saturday, May 5 when they face Leicester City at the King Power Stadium (3pm).

West Ham United: Adrian, Aaron Cresswell, Pablo Zabaleta, Marko Arnautovic, Cheikhou Kouyate, Manuel Lanzini (Javier Hernandez 66'), Mark Noble (capt), Angelo Ogbonna, Patrice Evra (Arthur Masuaku 66'), Edmilson Fernandes (Joao Mario 65'), Declan Rice Subs not used: Nathan Trott, Andy Carroll, Jordan Hugill, Josh Cullen

Manchester City: Ederson, Kyle Walker (Danilo 61'), Raheem Sterling, Ilkay Gundogan (Yaya Toure 71'), Aymeric Laporte, Kevin De Bruyne, Fabian Delph, Leroy Sané, Fernandinho (capt), Nicolás Otamendi, Gabriel Jesus (Lukas Nmecha 79') Subs not used: Claudio Bravo, Bernardo Silva, Benjamin Mendy, Phil Foden

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Non-league round-up

Billericay and Gt Woking go up

By Brian Jeeves

BILLERICAY Town and Great Woking Rovers celebrated title success in their respective leagues as a number of the region's clubs completed their gruelling campaigns.

Town, who had claimed the Bostik League Premier Division title following a midweek victory over Harlow Town, received the championship trophy after a record league attendance of 2,206 had witnessed a thrilling 2-2 draw with Folkestone Invicta at the AGP Arena.

Joseph Taylor twice fired the Kent side ahead. Ricky Modeste initially restored parity, while former Spurs and Wolves man, Jamie O'Hara, ensured the Blues had the final say with a wonderful 30-yard strike in stoppage-time.

Meanwhile, Great Woking Rovers ensured an immediate return to the Bostik North by claiming top spot in the Essex Senior League, hammering West Essex 5-0 at Burroughs Park. Neil Richmond, Stephen Butterworth, Sam Carter, Nathan Dewberry and Nathan Dewberry found the net as the Villagers grabbed the honours with a game to spare.

There was a contrast in emotions at Staines Town as visitors, Thurrock, played their final game before disbanding. Ronnie Winn and Jordan Clark appeared to have given the hardy bunch of travelling fans a final celebration, scoring twice in the opening eight minutes. However, the home side hit back to win 5-2.

Bostik North champions, AFC Hornchurch, finished their campaign with a 2-2 draw at Waltham Abbey. Christian Assombalonga and Theo Fairweather-Johnson were on target for the Urchins - Darelle Russell with a brace for the Capershots side.

Bowers & Pitsea have to be satisfied with a play-off place after a 4-1 victory over Brentwood Town at the Len Salmon Stadium. Lewis Manor, Ben Sartain, Jamie Dicks and Martyn Stokes ensured the home side finished in third place. Tom Ranger provided the Brentwood response.

Heybridge Swifts' memorable campaign continues after Luke Callander and Juan Luque helped them to a 2-1 victory against Soham Town Rangers. Canvey Island also make the play-offs. Mitchell Gilbey scored twice for the Gulls in a 2-2 draw with Ware at Park Lane.

Tom Richardson (2) and Anthony Martin eased Aveley to a 3-1 win over Mildenhall Town at Parkside, while Romford avoided relegation with a 4-2 triumph over Maldon & Tiptree. Carlos Djalo Oso, Ayodeji Olukoga, Kris Newby and Greg Akpele were on target for the home side. Former Southend United and Spurs striker, Lee Barnard, scored a brace for the visitors.

Harry Norman scored in each half as Tilbury won 2-0 at Witham Town, but there were defeats for Barking, 3-0 at home to Potters Bar Town, and Grays Athletic, 1-0 at AFC Sudbury.

In the National League, Leyton Orient finished the season with a flourish, winning 3-1 at Gateshead. Macauley Bonne, Jobi McAnuff and Josh Koroma found the net for the O's at the International Stadium. Meanwhile, Dagenham & Redbridge concluded an uncertain campaign with a 2-0 defeat at champions, Macclesfield Town.

Scott Fenwick bagged a brace, while Anthony Church was also on target as Chelmsford City ensured a third-placed National South finish with a 3-0 victory at Eastbourne Borough. Braintree Town join the Clarets in the play-offs after a 3-0 victory over Gloucester City at Cressing Road. Reece Grant, scored twice, while Josh Hill also found the net.

East Thurrock United went down 1-0 at the hands of Hungerford Town at Rookery Hill. Nicholas Bignall scored the visitors' goal shortly before the interval. Andy Freeman and a Jordan Rose own goal couldn't prevent Concord Rangers from slipping to a 3-2 defeat at Havant & Waterlooville.

FC Romania are in the box seat to join Great Woking Rovers in the Bostik North after a 2-0 victory at Southend Manor. However, Basildon United could trump them with a midweek win over Redbridge after the Bees drew 0-0 at Sporting Bengal United.

Shrimpers look to end season on a high

**Bradford City 0
Southend United 2**
Sky Bet League One
By Rowland Lyons at the

Northern Commercial Stadium
SOUTHEND strode to a second away win in four days, thanks to a second half John White and Marc Antoine-Fortune salvo on Saturday.

The game burst into life on 18 minutes when Mark Oxley showed his mettle with a fine tip-around from Callum Guy's stinging drive.

Sustained City pressure saw Charlie Wyke and Matthew Lund – a former Blues loanee – denied as the Bantams tried to keep their outside play-off hopes alive.

But Southend soaked up the pressure with Dru Yearwood having a 34th minute drive deflected a cigarette paper's width wide, before Simon Cox was equally close to

connecting to Fortune's cross.

City went close on the stroke of half-time when from a quick free-kick, Alex Gillead's cross caused a goalmouth scramble, but the cool head of White averted the danger.

In stoppage time the Bantams should have taken the lead, but Gillead's cross was slightly behind, Dominic Poleon – another former loanee – who could only put his header high over the bar.

Bradford continued the pressure after the break, as Nathaniel Knight-Percival was inches away.

Oxley came to the visitors' rescue on 56 minutes to deny Matthew Kilgallon with a fine point-blank block, as Southend were starting to get overrun at the back.

The Blues then enjoyed a concerted spell of pressure, with Sam Mantom twice denied, before Theo

Robinson failed to make contact from a Stephen McLaughlin corner.

Southend went for broke and with Mantom forcing Colin Doyle into a desperate save, after clever Fortune play, City failed to clear Kightly's corner and McLaughlin stood the ball up for White to net with a stunning 73rd minute header.

Southend sensed glory and the lively Yearwood was denied by a last-ditch block. There was no stopping Yearwood – one of the success stories of the season – who turned provider on 78 minutes.

Having lead the counter attack through the heart of the Bantams' defence, the schemer played in Fortune, whose powerful, deflected effort looped over a stranded Doyle.

Delighted Blues boss Chris Powell said: "That's three games in seven days, nine points and three

clean sheets – and that's with a makeshift defence."

Southend complete their campaign with the visit of Bristol Rovers on Saturday (kick-off, 5.30pm).

Bradford City: Colin Doyle, Tony McMahon, Nathaniel Knight-Percival, Matthew Kilgallon, Stephen Warnock, Alex Gillead, Callum Guy, Timothee Dieng (Shay McCartan 83), Matthew Lund, Charlie Wyke, Kai Breukner (Dominic Poleon 16, Nicky Law 74). Subs not used: Lukas Raeder, Adam Chicksen, Romain Vincelot, Omari Patrick.

Southend United: Mark Oxley, Jason Demetriou, John White, Harry Kyrianiou, Elvis Bwomono, Stephen McLaughlin, Dru Yearwood, Sam Mantom, Simon Cox (Lewis Gard 90), Theo Robinson (Michael Kightly 65), Marc Antoine-Fortune (Freddie Ladapo 88). Subs not used: Nathan Bishop, Shayon Harrison, Jermaine McGlashan, Miles Mitchell-Nelson.

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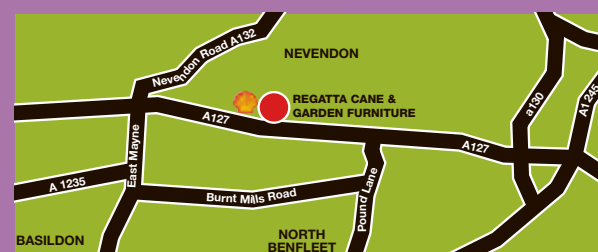
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